

Message Text

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ACTION SCI-06

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FM USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4300

INFO AEC GERMANTOWN

UNCLAS IAEA VIENNA 3944

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: TECH, IAEA

SUBJECT: IAEA TA PROGRAM

REF: STATE 81542

1. AGENCY ADVISES THAT THEY UNFORTUNATELY NOT RPT NOT ABLE TO PROVIDE ANY MEANINGFUL GENERAL OPINIONS ON FUTURE REQUIREMENTS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES FOR MASTER-SLAVE MANIPULATORS, AS REQUESTED REFTTEL.

2. AS DEPT AWARE, SUCH MANIPULATORS ARE NORMALLY USED IN CONNECTION CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF HOT CELLS. COMBINED INVESTMENT IN CONSTRUCTION OF THIS SORT OF FACILITY IS NORMALLY LARGE ENOUGH TO BE CONSIDERED AS CAPITAL INVESTMENT, RATHER THAN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PER SE. ACCORDINGLY, ASIDE FROM OCCASIONAL PERIPHERAL INVOLVEMENT IN CONSTRUCTION OR OPERATION OF SUCH FACILITIES, AGENCY NORMALLY HAS NO DIRECT INVOLVEMENT IN PROVISION OR USE OF SUCH EQUIPMENT, AND HAS NO RPT NO WAY OF ASSESSING OVERALL REQUIREMENTS IN DEVELOPING MEMBER STATES.

3. INsofar AS DIRECT AGENCY PROVISION OF THIS TYPE EQUIPMENT GOES, SITUATION IS ABOUT SAME; SUCH EQUIPMENT IS NORMALLY EXPENSIVE ENOUGH IN ITSELF, AND NORMALLY FORMS ONLY PART OF SUCH HIGH CAPITAL COST PROJECTS, THAT AGENCY GENERALLY DECLINES TO BECOME INVOLVED IN CONSEQUENT EXPENSE. EQUIPMENT SECTION
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COULD RECALL ONLY ONE OR TWO CASES, AND NONE RECENTLY, WHERE

AGENCY HAD DIRECTLY PROVIDED SUCH MANIPULATORS AS PART OF EQUIPMENT COMPONENT OF AGENCY TA PROJECTS. ACCORDINGLY, DIRECT DEMAND BY AGENCY FOR USE IN OR ON BEHALF OF DEVELOPING MEMBER STATES IS PROBABLY AN EFFECTIVE ZERO.

4. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THERE COULD BE SOME FUTURE DEMAND FOR PROCUREMENT OF THIS TYPE OF EQUIPMENT BY AGENCY IN CONNECTION WITH UNDP LARGE SCALE PROJECTS FOR SUCH PURPOSES AS DEVELOPING RADIOISOTOPE PRODUCTION CAPABILITY, OR HANDLING OF RESEARCH REACTOR FUEL ELEMENTS. HOWEVER, SUCH PROJECTS ARE DIFFICULT TO FORECAST UNTIL MEMBER STATE MAKES KNOWN ITS INTENTION TO UTILIZE UNDP RESOURCES IN ITS COUNTRY PROGRAM FOR SUCH PURPOSES.

5. TA AREA OFFICERS IN AGENCY COLLECTIVELY HAVE CONSIDERABLE FUND OF KNOWLEDGE REGARDING STATE OF NUCLEAR ENERGY PROGRAMS IN DEVELOPING MEMBER STATES, BUT THIS TENDS TO BE TOO SPOTTY TO BE OF MUCH USE IN DEVELOPING VIEWS ON OVERALL TRENDS IN DEMAND FOR THIS TYPE OF EQUIPMENT. IF, HOWEVER, DEPT/AEC ARE INTERESTED IN POTENTIAL REQUIREMENT IN A PARTICULAR DEVELOPING COUNTRY, OR SMALL GROUP OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, MISSION COULD UNDERTAKE TO ELICIT AND SYNTHESIZE THIS TYPE OF INFORMATION. PLEASE ADVISE IF SUCH REQUIREMENT EXISTS. LABOWITZ

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